Broadband Proposals Requested

Jan Lesher, Director of the Arizona Department of Commerce, and Chris Cummiskey, Director of the Government Information Technology Agency, are compiling a wide ranging package of policies and initiatives on the expansion of broadband capacity in the state. Any public, private, or non-profit entity is invited to submit their proposals. If you or your association has any new or existing ideas or concepts for expanding broadband capacity in Arizona, please take advantage of this opportunity for your voice to be heard!

Submit to: Galen Updike, GITA at gupdike@azgita.gov (pre-response questions are welcome).

Topic: Comments or Proposals, including policy changes or initiatives that will help facilitate or expedite the build out of broadband capacity in un-served and/or under-served areas or Arizona. Primarily, we are looking for policy ideas and initiatives, not new technologies (Please note: proposals are public record information.)

Length: Outline or executive summary up to 5 pages; with additional documents as needed

Deadline: June 30, 2007 – Upon receipt of the proposals, we may pursue communication activities such as public meetings, public comment on the proposals or other stakeholder outreach activities. The next steps in this process may include changes to policy or statutes, or budget considerations.

Responses should include the following:

- Description of the Policy/Initiative:
- What is it and how does it work?
- To implement, what are the barriers, impediments or challenges to overcome
- Does it concern middle or last mile?
- What are the goals and performance metrics?
- Is it a legislation or administrative policy?
- If an initiative, who are the partners?
- If an initiative, what is its Cost?
- If an initiative, what are the Funding sources: How will it be paid for?
- Who will contribute to creation, maintenance and/or operation?
- Administration: What entities will oversee or administer the initiative?
- Location availability: If an infrastructure initiative, what geographic locations will be served?
- Participants: Who will be served by the infrastructure?
- Which entities will build, maintain and operate the infrastructure?

Review criteria will include: Time to market, potential consequences, opportunity or substitution cost, efficient use of public resources, number of residences or businesses impacted or served.

Whether or not you have comments or input about new policy or infrastructure initiatives, please provide input about the three areas of policy presented and discussed at the May 17th 2007 ATIC/CIAC Summit as outlined below:

State-wide Strategic Telecommunications Plan - Is one needed? Who should be involved? Should the emphasis be local or regional? Who should write the plan? Who should administer the plan (a consortium of Private only, a public/private body, an agency of the State, or Counties, or a combination)?

Creation of an Arizona Broadband Development Authority (ABDA) - as identified in the proposed "straw-man" legislation SB1070, including funding scenarios: Public to Public, Public to Private, and Private to Private sources of funds and targets. Is the creation of an Arizona Broadband Universal Service

Fund (ABUSF) a viable idea? Is a 50 cent per month addition to a typical Internet user's bill, for a period of time, an effective way to build the fund? Will using the funds to add middle-mile Broadband infrastructure help change ROI ratios sufficient to lower end-user connectivity costs? Should Right-of-Way stewardship also be part of the ABDA?

Right-of-Way Policy (ROW) changes - Should Arizona establish ROW for Broadband infrastructure routes parallel to existing state or county roads? Is the statement "Citizens should pay for ROW just once" a valid policy for the State to adapt in some form? Is Broadband "critical" infrastructure to be treated like Roads, Water or Power infrastructure, in policy and law? Should government owned "vertical" ROW be made available for Broadband build-out? Should Arizona follow California, Maryland and Maine's lead in providing State owned ROW at no cost, or at very minimal costs for Private Sector infrastructure build-out?